

S-E-C-R-E-T /NOFORN

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To date, West Germany had always argued that an understanding with East Germany was blocked by two factors, namely the stealing of the Dresden art treasures by the Soviets and the retention of German PWs in the USSR. The Dresden art treasures have been returned in the meantime and when the other arguments will soon lose all its force. Thus the West German danger has any pretext for avoiding an agreement with the GDR. The GDR is ready for cooperation in the interest of peace and she extends the greatest confidence to the GDR. German PWs still retained in the USSR will soon be discharged.

Comment. The present report indicates that the Soviets may prepare a new action in the question of the German PWs still retained by them. It is undoubtedly planned to exploit this action in the interest of the GDR.

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SP-100.

East Germany

Possible Return of German Prisoners of War
from the USSR

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DATE OF
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The chief of the ADN news service who had had a talk with members of the GDR government made the following statements:

To date, West Germany had always argued that an understanding with East Germany was blocked by two facts, namely the stealing of the Dresden art treasures by the Soviets and the retention of German PWs in the USSR. The Dresden art treasures have been returned in the meantime and also the other argument will soon lose all its force. Thus the West will no longer have any pretext for avoiding an agreement with the GDR. The USSR is ready for cooperation in the interest of peace and she extends the greatest confidence to the GDR. German PWs still retained in the USSR will soon be discharged.

Comment. The present report indicates that the Soviets may prepare a new action in the question of the German PWs still retained by them. It is undoubtedly planned to exploit this action in the interest of the GDR. It is planned to exploit this action in the interest of the GDR.

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